

Potato rolls and guinea fowl purée
The Hall-Wattens region can serve up something to suit every palate

Hall-Wattens - The residents of Hall-Wattens region are spoilt for choice when it comes to restaurants. Served up on neatly-laid tables in the eateries of Absam, Baumkirchen, Fritzens, Gnadenwald, Hall in Tirol, Mils, Thaur, Tulfes, Volders, Wattenberg und Wattens are a rich mix of highly pleasurable platters. There are no fewer than 132 restaurants, cake and coffee shops, bars and cafés at the ready to stave off hunger and boredom.

Guests choosing to eat out in the region's rustic-style restaurants will be served by attentive waitresses wearing traditional Tyrolean costumes. Diners can look forward to good, down-to-earth fare cooked by local chefs. Schnitzels, roast meats, kebabs, prepared from recipes handed down through the generations, will titillate the taste buds. Many traditional Tyrolean *Gasthöfe* (inns or taverns with a bar, a restaurant, banqueting facilities and hotel rooms) are located in romantic spots in picturesque villages. When you're sitting outside with a view over the Inn valley with towering mountains beyond, then a plate of *Schlutzkrapfen* (Tyrolean pasta pockets) and *Rostbraten* (roast beef) will go down particularly well. Gourmets may well prefer the Granderwirt in Wattens. The chef in this superb restaurant, which proudly boasts two "chef's hats" and 15 Gault Millau points, specialises in seasonal menus.

It will probably require some degree of physical effort, if you want some, but the many cosy mountain huts in the region commanding panoramic views are famed throughout the world for their superb *Knödel* or dumplings. Choose from the cheese, bacon, liver or spinach variety, they are usually served with cabbage, soup or salad ... and when you've tasted your first freshly prepared *Kaiserschmarrn* or Emperor's Pancake (a sugared pancake with raisins), you will conclude that the long climb up really was worth the effort.

A unique gastronomic experience is on offer at the Ritterkuchl in Hall's historic town centre. What you can expect here is medieval banquet and that means you'll need a gargantuan appetite. While gorging on up to eight courses, consisting perhaps of quiche lorraine and flambéed turkey brochettes, princesses and squires sit down together at table as they would have in a long bygone age.

From a culinary point of view, the Tyroleans have used the mountains as an excuse to exclude the rest of the world. This is abundantly clear from the wide choice of international restaurants. These cosmopolitan eateries are not influenced by

the region's historic past or by hearty Tyrolean-style fare, but guests dining out at restaurants run by Italians, Greeks or Indians always appreciate the multi-cultural experience. You could always grab a small dish of rice or fish from the conveyor belt at Running Sushi.

There is good reason why Austria is famed for its cakes. That will become apparent when you pass the display window at one of the many region's *Konditorei* or confectionery shops. Look out for *Zimtparfaittorte mit Himbeeren* (cinnamon parfait torte with raspberries), *Mandelnusskuchen* (almond nut cake) or *Trüffelbisquitt* (truffle sponge). If you want to satisfy your sweet tooth and fully activate those taste buds, then you really ought to wash down the cake with a *heisse Schokolade* (hot chocolate) or a *Verlängerter* (an espresso coffee "stretched" with water).

Hall-Wattens has mastered the fine art of seduction like no other region in the Tyrol. Every year, the eleven towns and villages of Absam, Baumkirchen, Fritzens, Gnadental, Hall in Tirol, Mils, Thaur, Tulfes, Volders, Wattenberg and Wattens welcome visitors from all over the world. Breathtaking wonders of nature meet up with historic town centres and an unparalleled programme of cultural events. Valued traditions and idyllic villages coupled with a lively cosmopolitan atmosphere. And last but not least, ultra-modern hotels, delightful guesthouses, cosy pubs and superb restaurants powerfully reflect the region's special character.

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